



OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

Chris Abele

MILWAUKEE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

For Immediate Release

Oct. 25, 2011

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Abele Names Frank Busalacchi as County Transportation and Public Works Director ***Headed State Transportation Department, Is Expert on Transit and Roads Issues***

MILWAUKEE – County Executive Chris Abele on Tuesday named former longtime Wisconsin Department of Transportation secretary Frank Busalacchi to serve as director of Milwaukee County's Transportation and Public Works Department.

Busalacchi served as Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WISDOT) secretary from January 2003 to January 2011. As secretary, Busalacchi oversaw 3,300 employees (including the State Patrol and Division of Motor Vehicles) and led state initiatives and programs involving highways, local roads, railroads, public transit systems, airports, harbors and bicycle and pedestrian facilities.

He led the state's initiative to rebuild the Marquette Interchange in downtown Milwaukee, fulfilling the department's commitment to minority participation by contracting 19% of the work to Disadvantaged Business Enterprises, meeting a goal he set that was higher than the typical 11% - 12% for state projects.

"We're extremely fortunate to be able to tap into Frank's unparalleled experience and relationships from his eight years leading Wisconsin's transportation programs," Abele said. "Frank's leadership, administrative skill and background will be invaluable in helping Milwaukee County maintain and improve our transit system and other transportation programs."

Busalacchi enhanced Wisconsin's rail program through the acquisition of two sets of trains for the Chicago-Milwaukee Amtrak Hiawatha line and the remodeling of two stations, in addition to adding a new train station at the Milwaukee airport. From 2004 to 2010, he served as chair of the States for Passenger Rail Coalition, an alliance of 31 state DOTs calling for expanded federal support of intercity passenger rail.

"I'm very proud and honored to be chosen by County Executive Abele to serve as a member of his team," Busalacchi said. "I feel very strongly that he's doing all the right things on behalf of Milwaukee County residents and look forward to being part of his administration."

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Busalacchi served from 1998 to 2003 as president of the board of the Milwaukee World Festivals (Summerfest), where he also chaired the Negotiating Committee that developed the lease between Summerfest and the City of Milwaukee. He chaired the group's Building Committee, which was responsible for the \$18 million Millennium Momentum Plan.

The appointment is subject to County Board confirmation.

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